

Ice Cream Firm Owner Found Dead in Auto

Russell's Death Apparently Suicide, Dr. Speicher Says

Blakely State Police are investigating the death of E. Spencer Russell, 51, 14 Washington St., Carbondale, who was found dead in his car yesterday at 8 a. m. at the former Heat Transfer Co. plant, Simpson, where authorities believe he took his own life.

Mr. Russell's body was found in his coupe, with the car motor running, in a closed garage at the industrial plant.

Dr. Charles Speicher, Carbondale, deputy county coroner, issued a verdict of apparent suicide and attributed death to asphyxiation by carbon monoxide poisoning.

Investigators, in addition to Deputy Coroner Speicher, are Police Chief Stephen Zavacky and Patrolman Stanley Rupp, Fell Twp., and Trooper Norman P. McFadden, Blakely State Police Barracks.

Trooper McFadden was not available for further details yesterday and Blakely State Police stated no report had been filed at the barracks at 5 p. m. yesterday.

Mr. Russell, head of the Russell Dairy Co., Carbondale, and the Russell Ice Cream Co., which at one time operated a chain of 40 ice cream stores throughout Northeastern Pennsylvania, is believed to have been despondent over business reverses. He recently figured in bankruptcy proceedings in Federal Court.

Mr. Russell was born on a dairy farm near Carbondale. After moving to Carbondale with his parents, he organized the Russell Dairy Co. and later branched into the ice cream field. By 1940 he had approximately 40 stores in operation throughout the region with manufacturing plants in Carbondale and Kingston.

In the late 1930s he opened an ice cream plant in Philadelphia and organized a chain of approximately 25 retail stores in that area. In 1940 he sold his Philadelphia interests and consolidated his regional business.

Mr. Russell later sold his Kingston plant and then opened a processing plant for frozen foods



E. Spencer Russell...
rites Monday

in Belvedere, N. J., which he operated during World War II.

In August, 1949, he was key figure in a corporation which purchased the Heat Transfer Co. plant, then engaged in defense production.

For several years following the war, the Heat Transfer Co. manufactured gas and oil heating units for homes and offices but eventually failed. A fund drive throughout the Carbondale area failed to aid the venture and two years ago the plant was taken over by Carbondale Industries Inc.

Mr. Russell was a member of the First Presbyterian Church, Carbondale, and of the Manufacturers Guild, Philadelphia. He was a director of the Pioneer Dime Bank, Carbondale, and was president-treasurer of the Russell Ice Cream Co.

He was a graduate of Carbondale High School and in his youth was regarded as an outstanding trumpet player.

Surviving are his wife, the former Miss Lois Bennett, Carbondale; two sons, Walter J. Russell, Carbondale, secretary of the ice cream firm, and James, serving with the Navy; one daughter Mrs. Marjorie Shaw, Philadelphia; his mother, Mrs. George Russell, Canaan St., Carbondale; one brother, Maurice, Greenfield, and one sister, Mrs. Margaret MacMillan Carbondale, and two grandchildren.

The funeral, which will be private, will be held Monday at 2 p. m. from the John T. McGranaghan Funeral Home, 62 Main St.,

Carbondale, with services by the Rev. C. Gordon Stone, Berean Baptist Church, Carbondale, and the Rev. Paul Smith, Clifford Baptist Church. Interment Maplewood Cemetery, Carbondale.

Friends may call at the funeral home Sunday from 2 to 5 and 7 to 9 p. m. Arrangements, Fuller E. Blickens, Clarks Summit.

Died: Nov. 30, 1951
Buried: Dec. 3, 1951

E. Spencer Russell's Funeral Set Today

The funeral of E. Spencer Russell, 14 North Washington St., Carbondale, will be held today at 2 p. m. Private services will be conducted at the John T. McGranaghan Funeral Home, 62 North Main St., Carbondale.

The Rev. C. Gordon Stone, Berean Baptist Church, Carbondale, and the Rev. Paul Smith, Clifford Baptist Church, will officiate. Interment, Maplewood Cemetery, Carbondale. Arrangements, Fuller E. Blickens, Clarks Summit.

Mr. Russell, head of the Russell dairy and ice cream companies, Carbondale, was found dead in his car Friday morning. Verdict of suicide was issued and death was attributed to carbon monoxide poisoning.

E. Spencer Russell Is Laid at Rest

The funeral of E. Spencer Russell, 14 Washington St., Carbondale, prominent businessman and former head of the Russell Ice Cream Co. and the Russell Dairy Co., Carbondale, was held yesterday afternoon with private services from the McGranaghan Funeral Home, 62 North Main St., Carbondale.

The Rev. C. Gordon Stone, Berean Baptist Church, Carbondale, and the Rev. Paul Smith, Clifford Baptist Church, officiated.

Interment, Maplewood Cemetery, Carbondale. Pallbearers were: Michael Quinn, David Delancey, Oliver Jones, Weston Lamb, Norman Carter, Edward Isser, David Neece and Winfred Gavitt.